The BOYS

Dear Becky

07

MATURE

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DA RI CK 2020

The BOYS™

Dear Becky

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07

Billy Butcher, Wee Hughie, Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and The Female were The Boys: a CIA-backed team of very dangerous people, each one dedicated to the struggle against the most lethal force on Earth — superpower. Some superheroes had to be watched. Some of them had to be controlled. And some of them — sometimes — had to be taken out of the picture.

The issue was decided in one final battle against a massed superhero army, when a plan concocted by the "supes" to overthrow the US government went horribly awry. Now, twelve years later, Hughie and his lover Annie January have returned to his home in the Scottish town of Auchterladle — their battles fought and won, their torment over.

The days when Colonel Greg Mallory led The Boys are firmly in the past. So too are the times Billy Butcher shared with a woman who strove to send him down a different road. All of that is over and done with. Finished.

Now read on…

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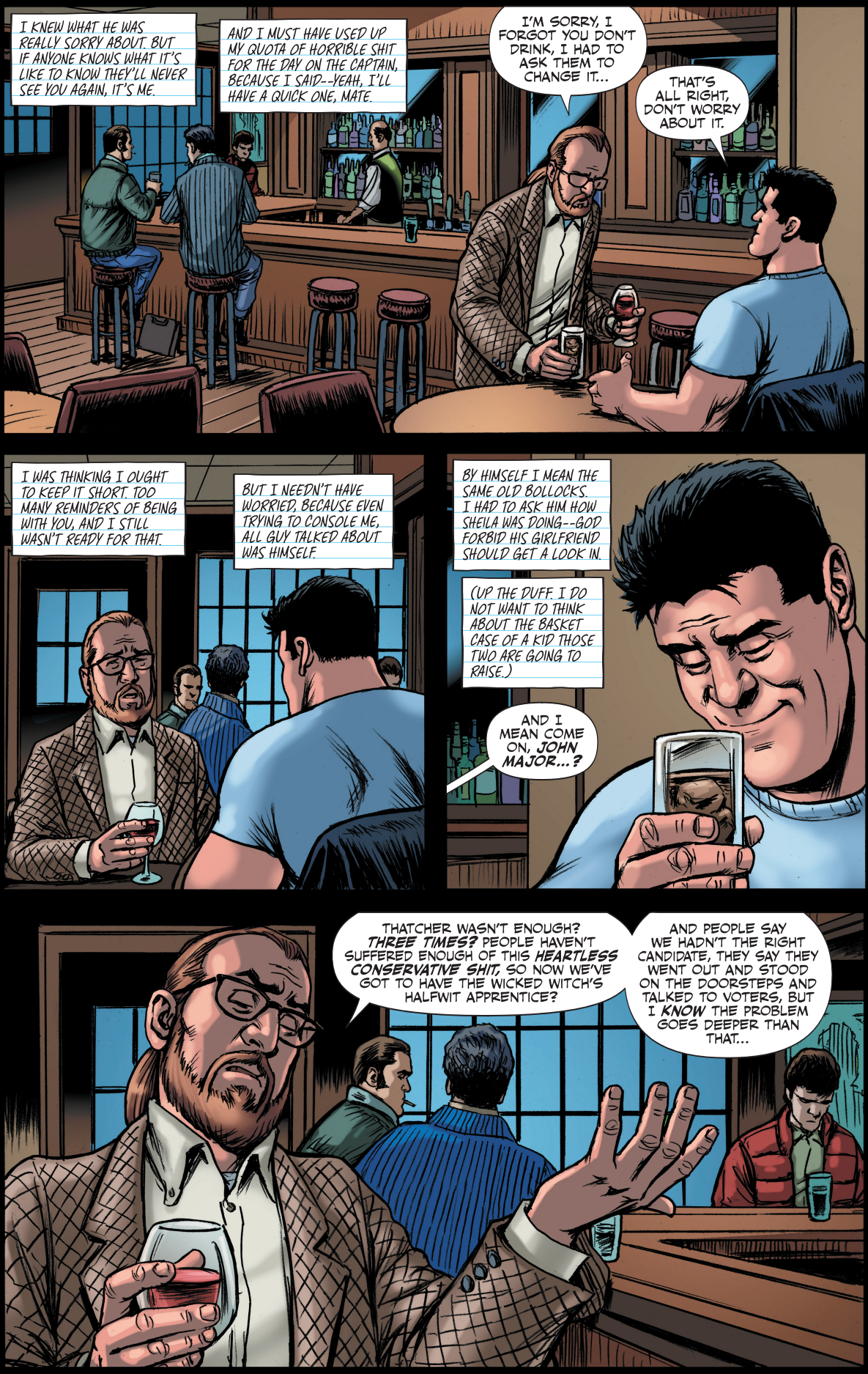
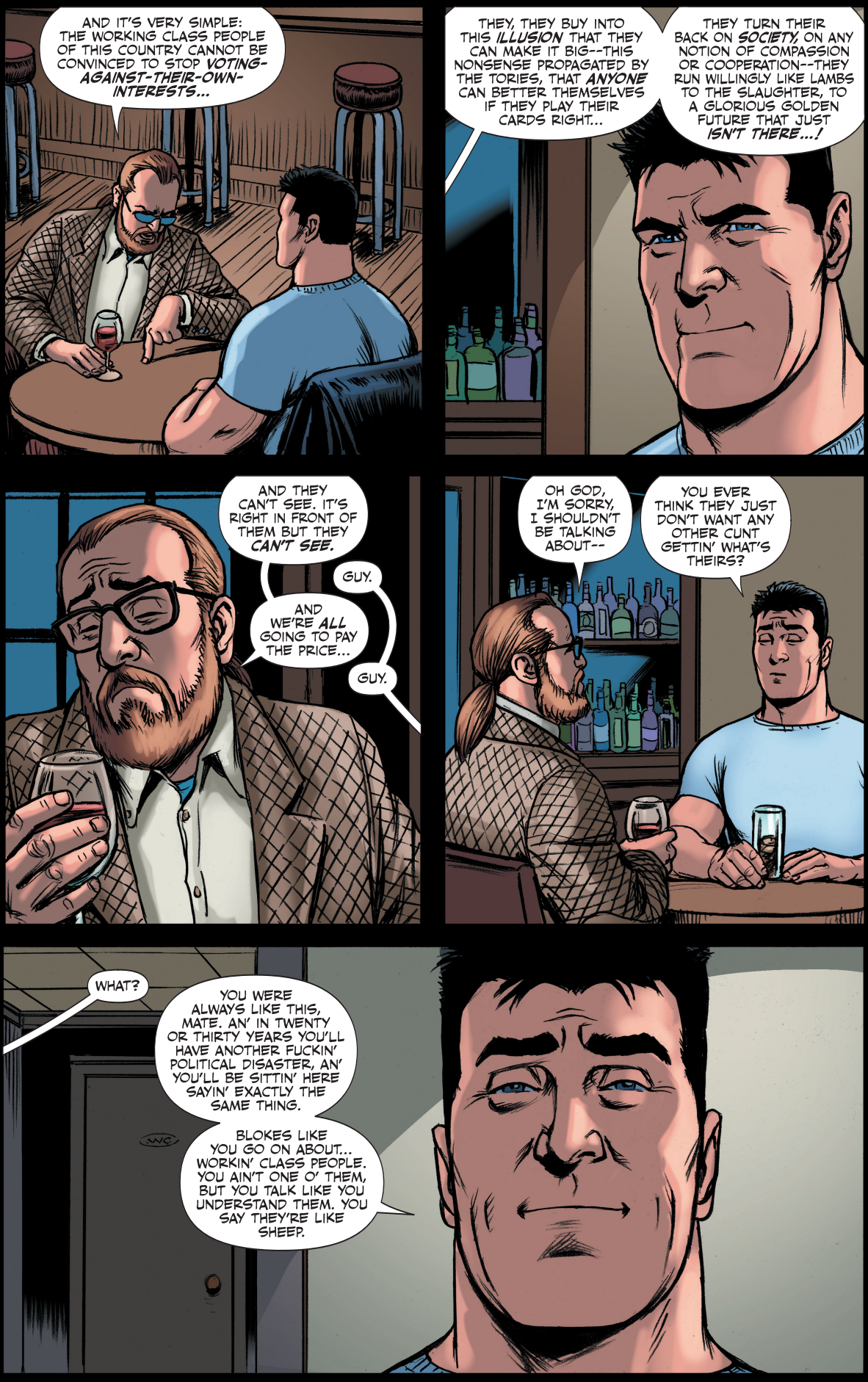
THERE WAS A THING I DONE I REMEMBERED THE OTHER DAY. IT WAS A BIT CRUEL, AND I DONE IT JUST BECAUSE I COULD.
SUBWAY
UNDERGROUND
PUBLIC SUBWAY
MALLORY SENT ME TO LONDON ON A JOB. YOU WOULDN'T WANT THE DETAILS, SO ALL I'LL SAY IS IF YOU CALL YOURSELF CAPTAIN YOU WANT TO WATCH WHAT YOU FOLLOW IT WITH--SPECIALLY ROUND A BLOKE THAT'S REALLY SERVED.
I DIDN'T GO NOWHERE NEAR THE OLD MANOR. OR MY MUM.
OR WHERE YOU'RE BURIED EITHER, COME TO THAT.
BILLY...?
BILLY, DO YOU--DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I-IT'S BEEN AGES, I--I KNOW YOU WERE ILL, YOU COULDN'T GO TO THE--
CHRIST, IT MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL FOR YOU--!
ALL RIGHT, GUY.
BILLY, I'M SO SORRY...!

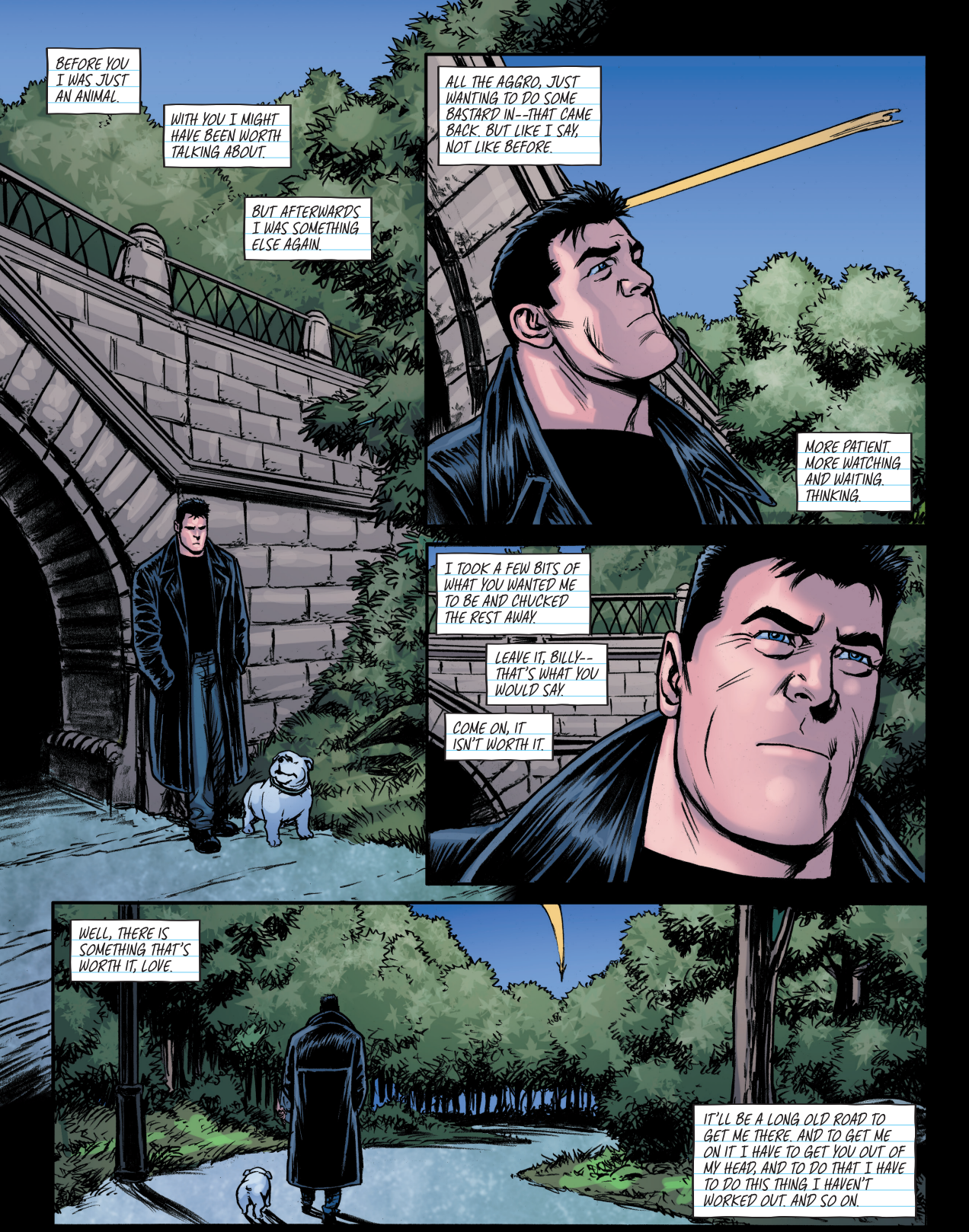

I KNEW WHAT HE WAS REALLY SORRY ABOUT. BUT IF ANYONE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO KNOW THEY'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, IT'S ME.
AND I MUST HAVE USED UP MY QUOTA OF HORRIBLE SHIT FOR THE DAY ON THE CAPTAIN, BECAUSE I SAID--YEAH, I'LL HAVE A QUICK ONE, MATE.
I'M SORRY, I FORGOT YOU DON'T DRINK, I HAD TO ASK THEM TO CHANGE IT...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I WAS THINKING I OUGHT TO KEEP IT SHORT. TOO MANY REMINDERS OF BEING WITH YOU, AND I STILL WASN'T READY FOR THAT.
BUT I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED, BECAUSE EVEN TRYING TO CONSOLE ME, ALL GUY TALKED ABOUT WAS HIMSELF.
BY HIMSELF I MEAN THE SAME OLD BOLLOCKS. I HAD TO ASK HIM HOW SHEILA WAS DOING--GOD FORBID HIS GIRLFRIEND SHOULD GET A LOOK IN.
(UP THE DUFF. I DO NOT WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE BASKET CASE OF A KID THOSE TWO ARE GOING TO RAISE.)
AND I MEAN COME ON, JOHN MAJOR...?
THATCHER WASN'T ENOUGH? THREE TIMES? PEOPLE HAVEN'T SUFFERED ENOUGH OF THIS HEARTLESS CONSERVATIVE SHIT, SO NOW WE'VE GOT TO HAVE THE WICKED WITCH'S HALFWIT APPRENTICE?
AND PEOPLE SAY WE HADN'T THE RIGHT CANDIDATE, THEY SAY THEY WENT OUT AND STOOD ON THE DOORSTEPS AND TALKED TO VOTERS, BUT I KNOW THE PROBLEM GOES DEEPER THAN THAT...


AND IT'S VERY SIMPLE: THE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE CONVINCED TO STOP VOTING-AGAINST-THEIR-OWN-INTERESTS...
THEY, THEY BUY INTO THIS ILLUSION THAT THEY CAN MAKE IT BIG--THIS NONSENSE PROPAGATED BY THE TORIES, THAT ANYONE CAN BETTER THEMSELVES IF THEY PLAY THEIR CARDS RIGHT...
THEY TURN THEIR BACK ON SOCIETY, ON ANY NOTION OF COMPASSION OR COOPERATION--THEY RUN WILLINGLY LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER, TO A GLORIOUS GOLDEN FUTURE THAT JUST ISN'T THERE...!
AND THEY CAN'T SEE. IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM BUT THEY CAN'T SEE.
GUY.
AND WE'RE ALL GOING TO PAY THE PRICE...
GUY.
OH GOD, I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T BE TALKING ABOUT--
YOU EVER THINK THEY JUST DON'T WANT ANY OTHER CUNT GETTIN' WHAT'S THEIRS?
WHAT?
YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THIS, MATE. AN' IN TWENTY OR THIRTY YEARS YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER FUCKIN' POLITICAL DISASTER, AN' YOU'LL BE SITTIN' HERE SAYIN' EXACTLY THE SAME THING.
BLOKES LIKE YOU GO ON ABOUT... WORKIN' CLASS PEOPLE. YOU AIN'T ONE O' THEM, BUT YOU TALK LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND THEM. YOU SAY THEY'RE LIKE SHEEP.

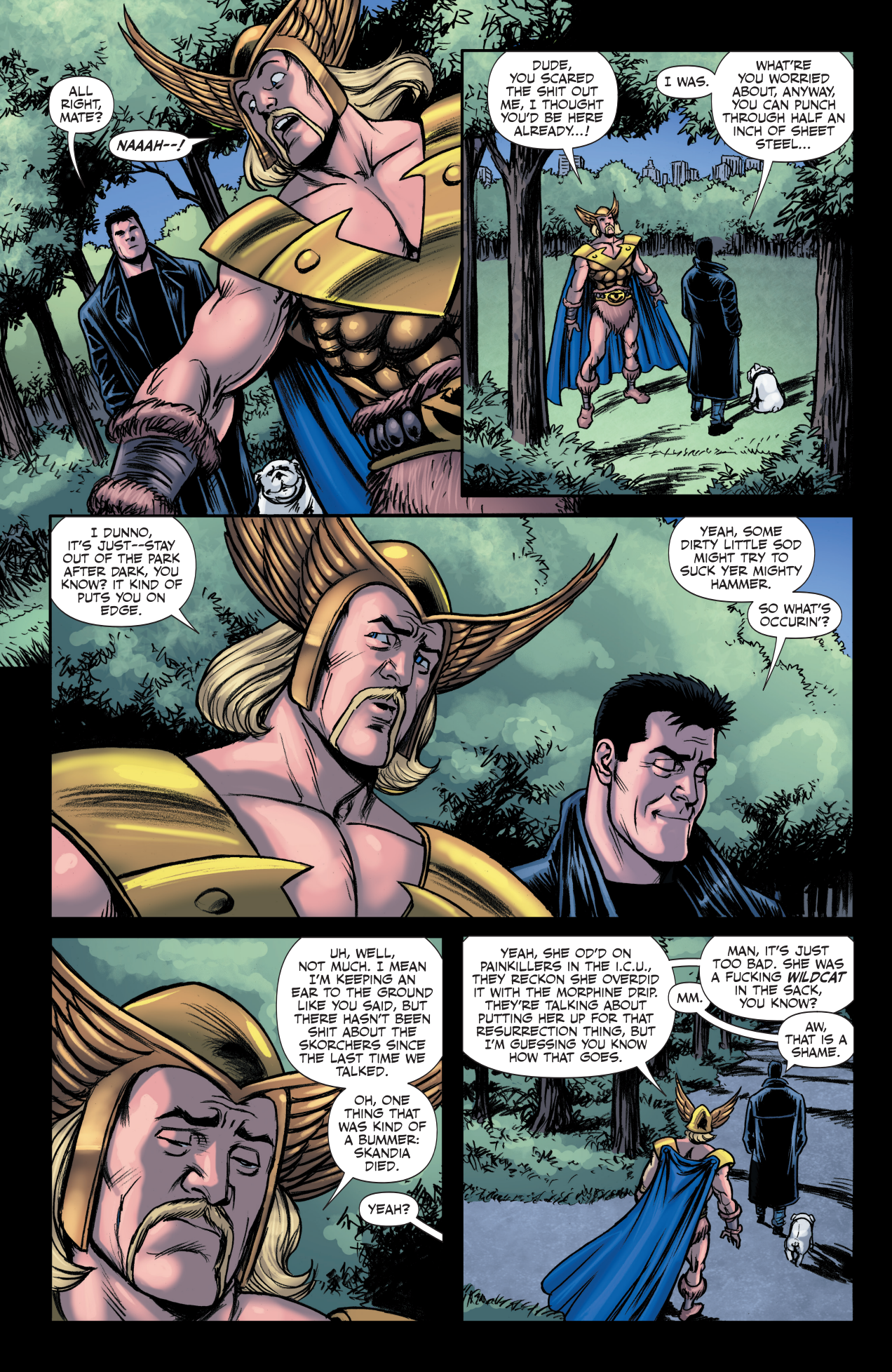
THAT'S THE LINE, INNIT? WE'RE LIKE SHEEP, 'COS WE'RE SO EASILY LED. THAT'S WHY WE GO FOR THIS SHIT.
BUT DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT WE AIN'T?
SOMEONE PUTS SOMETHIN' ON THE TABLE AN' WE GO FOR IT, AN' WE DON'T GIVE A BOLLOCKS ABOUT ANYONE LEFT BEHIND. WE'RE SO FUCKIN' THICK WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOIN'.
WELL WHAT IF WE DO KNOW, WOULD THAT SOUND LIKE A FUCKIN' SHEEP TO YOU?
WHAT IF WE AIN'T SHEEP?
WHAT IF WE'RE WOLVES?
THIS WAS IN THE DAYS I COULD SORT OF FEEL SOMETHING HAPPENING TO ME. SLOWLY, LIKE.
I KNEW WHAT IT WAS, SO I NEVER DID NOTHING TO STOP IT.
THIS...
THIS IS THE BILLY BUTCHER I NEVER KNEW, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE A SMART LAD, GUY.
YOU'D'VE TWIGGED SOONER OR LATER.

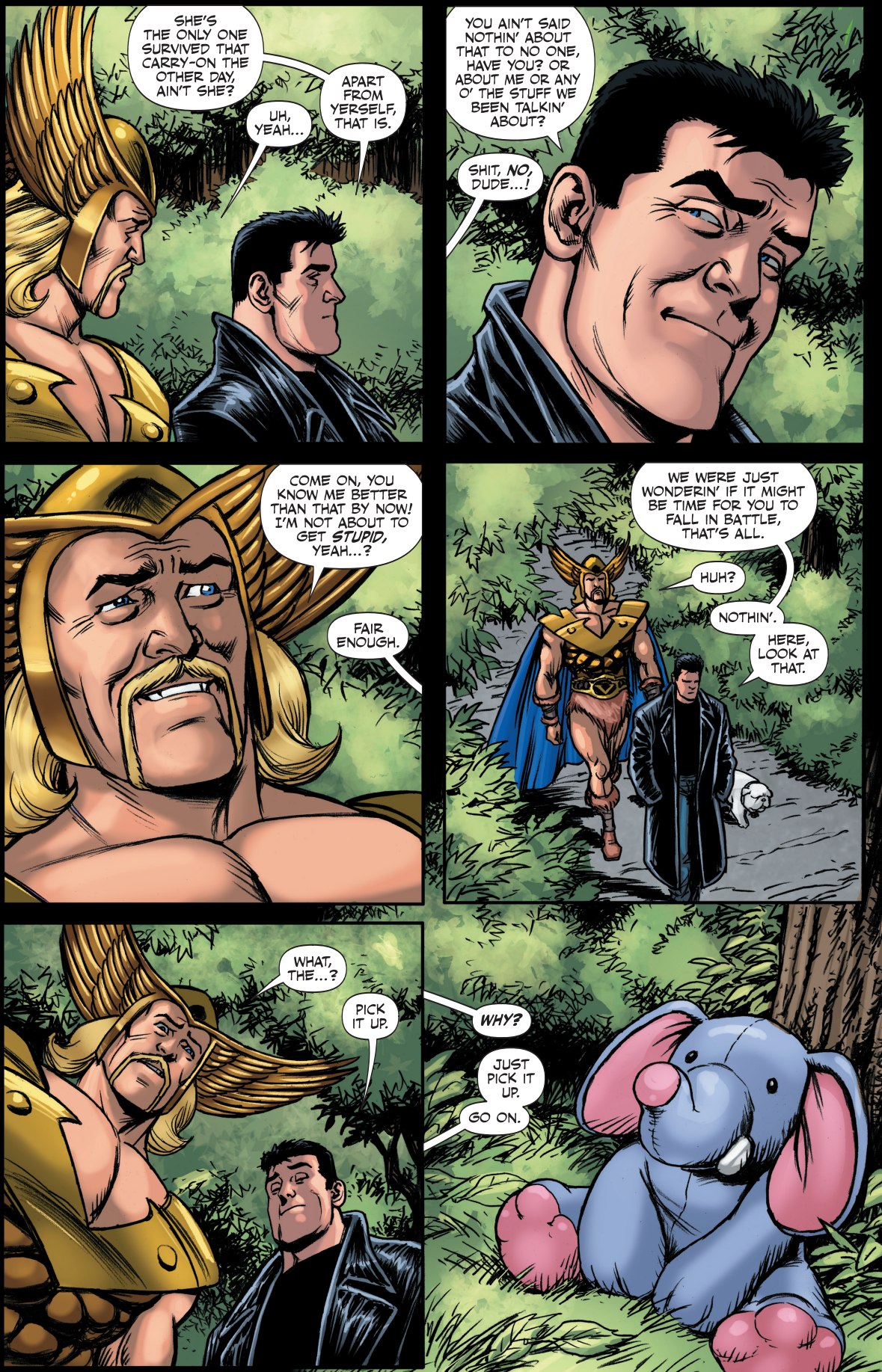
THE WORST THING I EVER DONE WAS TAKE THE STUFF YOU SAID TO ME AND USE IT TO MAKE MYSELF WORSE.

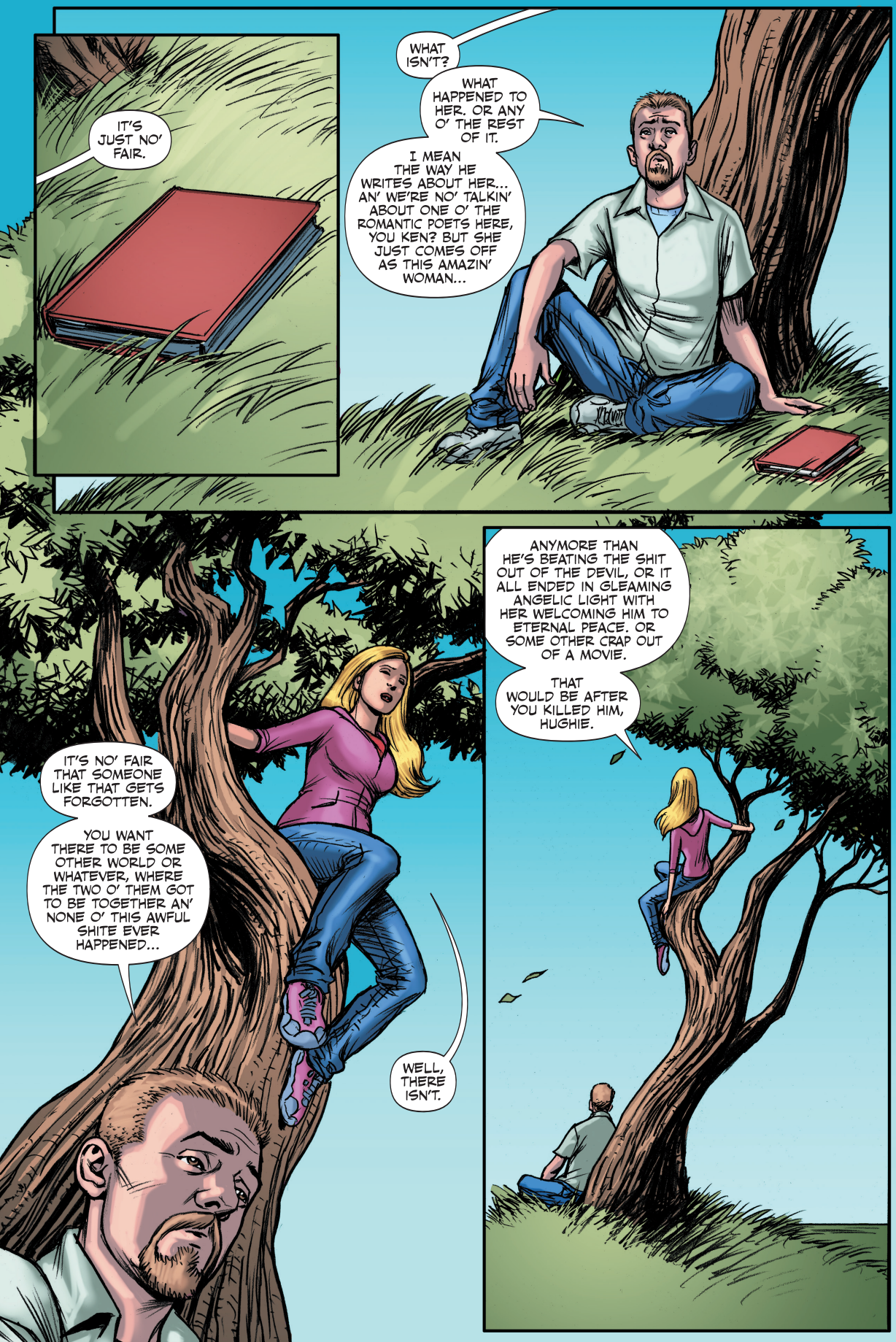
7: FRIDAY

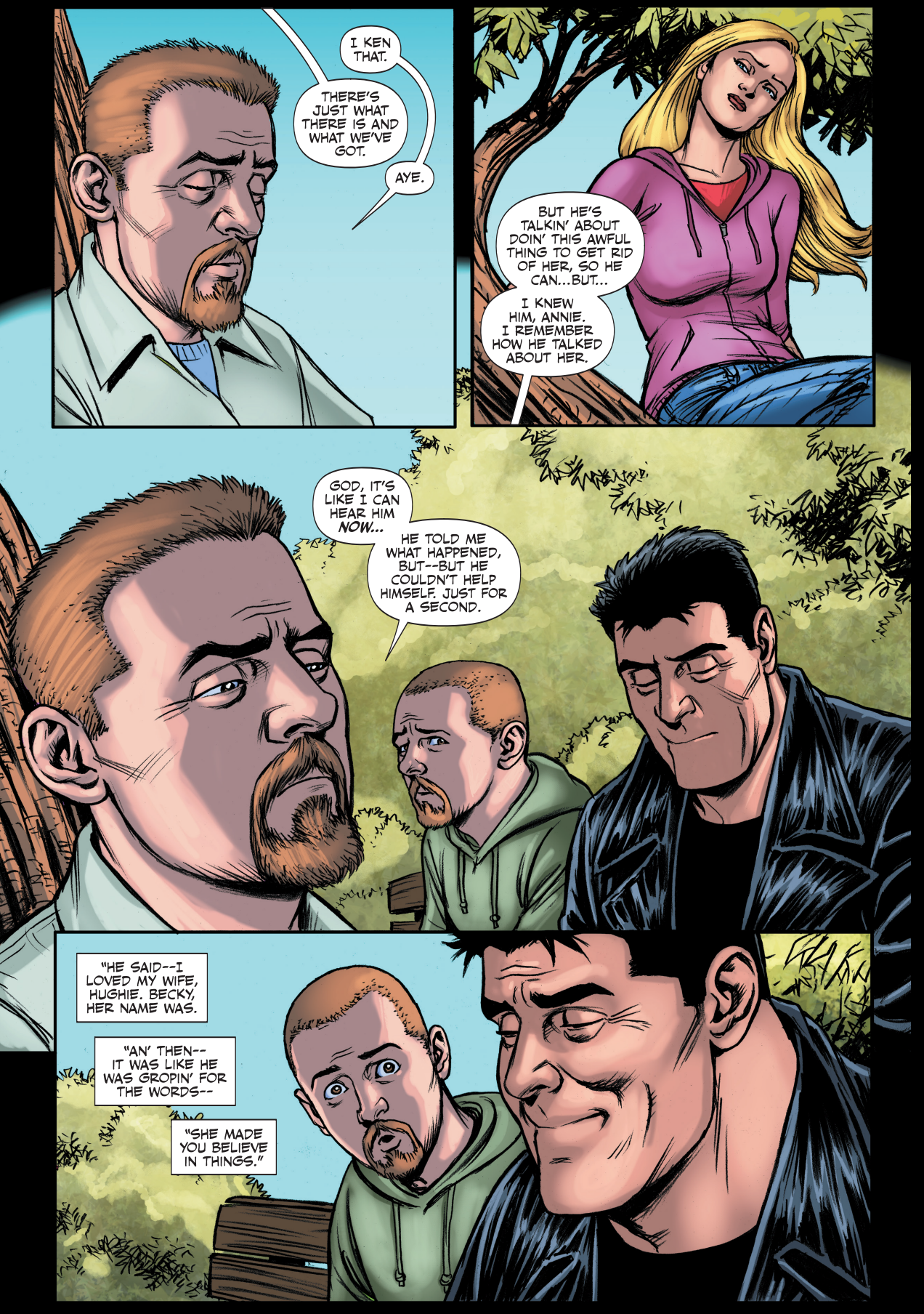

BEFORE YOU I WAS JUST AN ANIMAL.
WITH YOU I MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORTH TALKING ABOUT.
BUT AFTERWARDS I WAS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.
ALL THE AGGRO, JUST WANTING TO DO SOME BASTARD IN--THAT CAME BACK. BUT LIKE I SAY, NOT LIKE BEFORE.
MORE PATIENT. MORE WATCHING AND WAITING. THINKING.
I TOOK A FEW BITS OF WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO BE AND CHUCKED THE REST AWAY.
LEAVE IT, BILLY-- THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD SAY.
COME ON, IT ISN'T WORTH IT.
WELL, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT'S WORTH IT, LOVE.
IT'LL BE A LONG OLD ROAD TO GET ME THERE. AND TO GET ME ON IT I HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD. AND TO DO THAT I HAVE TO DO THIS THING I HAVEN'T WORKED OUT. AND SO ON.

BUT TO USE WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO LIKE I HAVE--THAT SAYS ALL THERE IS TO SAY ABOUT ME.

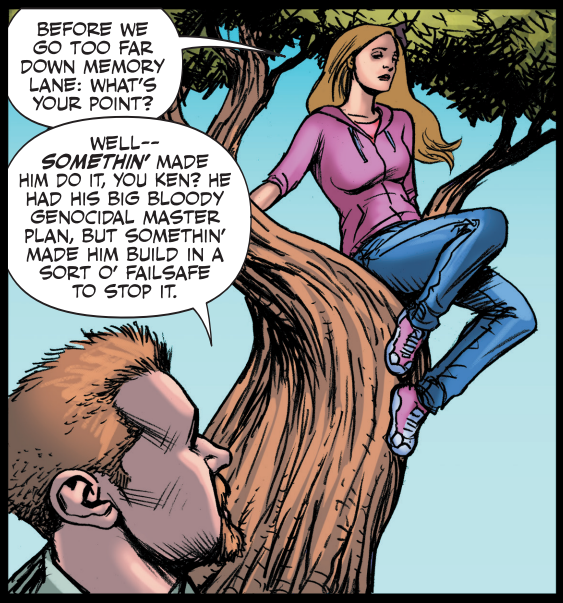

ALL RIGHT, MATE?
NAAAH--!
DUDE, YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUT ME, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE ALREADY...!
I WAS.
WHAT'RE YOU WORRIED ABOUT, ANYWAY, YOU CAN PUNCH THROUGH HALF AN INCH OF SHEET STEEL...
I DUNNO, IT'S JUST--STAY OUT OF THE PARK AFTER DARK, YOU KNOW? IT KIND OF PUTS YOU ON EDGE.
YEAH, SOME DIRTY LITTLE SOD MIGHT TRY TO SUCK YER MIGHTY HAMMER.
SO WHAT'S OCCURIN'?
UH, WELL, NOT MUCH. I MEAN I'M KEEPING AN EAR TO THE GROUND LIKE YOU SAID, BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN SHIT ABOUT THE SKORCHERS SINCE THE LAST TIME WE TALKED.
OH, ONE THING THAT WAS KIND OF A BUMMER: SKANDIA DIED.
YEAH?
YEAH, SHE OD'D ON PAINKILLERS IN THE I.C.U., THEY RECKON SHE OVERDID IT WITH THE MORPHINE DRIP. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT PUTTING HER UP FOR THAT RESURRECTION THING, BUT I'M GUESSING YOU KNOW HOW THAT GOES.
MM.
MAN, IT'S JUST TOO BAD. SHE WAS A FUCKING *WILDCAT* IN THE SACK, YOU KNOW?
AW, THAT IS A SHAME.


SHE'S THE ONLY ONE SURVIVED THAT CARRY-ON THE OTHER DAY, AIN'T SHE?
UH, YEAH...
APART FROM YERSELF, THAT IS.
YOU AIN'T SAID NOTHIN' ABOUT THAT TO NO ONE, HAVE YOU? OR ABOUT ME OR ANY O' THE STUFF WE BEEN TALKIN' ABOUT?
SHIT, NO, DUDE...!
COME ON, YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT BY NOW! I'M NOT ABOUT TO GET STUPID, YEAH...?
FAIR ENOUGH.
WE WERE JUST WONDERIN' IF IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR YOU TO FALL IN BATTLE, THAT'S ALL.
HUH?
NOTHIN'.
HERE, LOOK AT THAT.
WHAT, THE...?
PICK IT UP.
WHY?
JUST PICK IT UP.
GO ON.

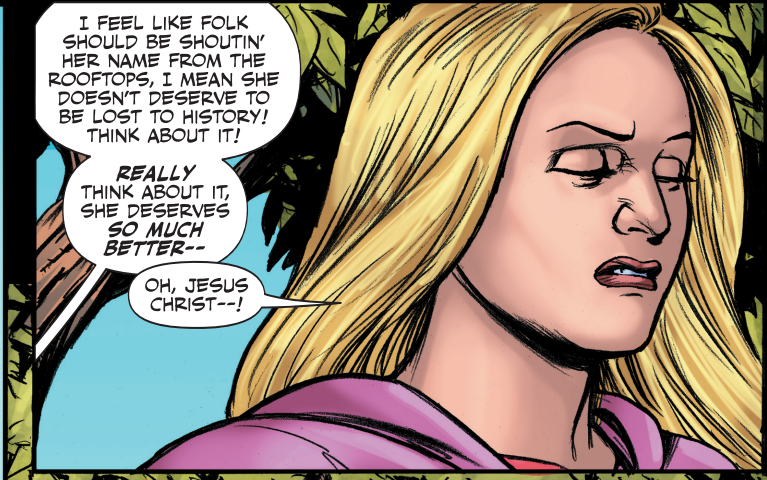

IT'S JUST NO' FAIR.
WHAT ISN'T?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER. OR ANY O' THE REST OF IT.
I MEAN THE WAY HE WRITES ABOUT HER... AN' WE'RE NO' TALKIN' ABOUT ONE O' THE ROMANTIC POETS HERE, YOU KEN? BUT SHE JUST COMES OFF AS THIS AMAZIN' WOMAN...
ANYMORE THAN HE'S BEATING THE SHIT OUT OF THE DEVIL, OR IT ALL ENDED IN GLEAMING ANGELIC LIGHT WITH HER WELCOMING HIM TO ETERNAL PEACE. OR SOME OTHER CRAP OUT OF A MOVIE.
THAT WOULD BE AFTER YOU KILLED HIM, HUGHIE.
IT'S NO' FAIR THAT SOMEONE LIKE THAT GETS FORGOTTEN.
YOU WANT THERE TO BE SOME OTHER WORLD OR WHATEVER, WHERE THE TWO O' THEM GOT TO BE TOGETHER AN' NONE O' THIS AWFUL SHITE EVER HAPPENED...
WELL, THERE ISN'T.

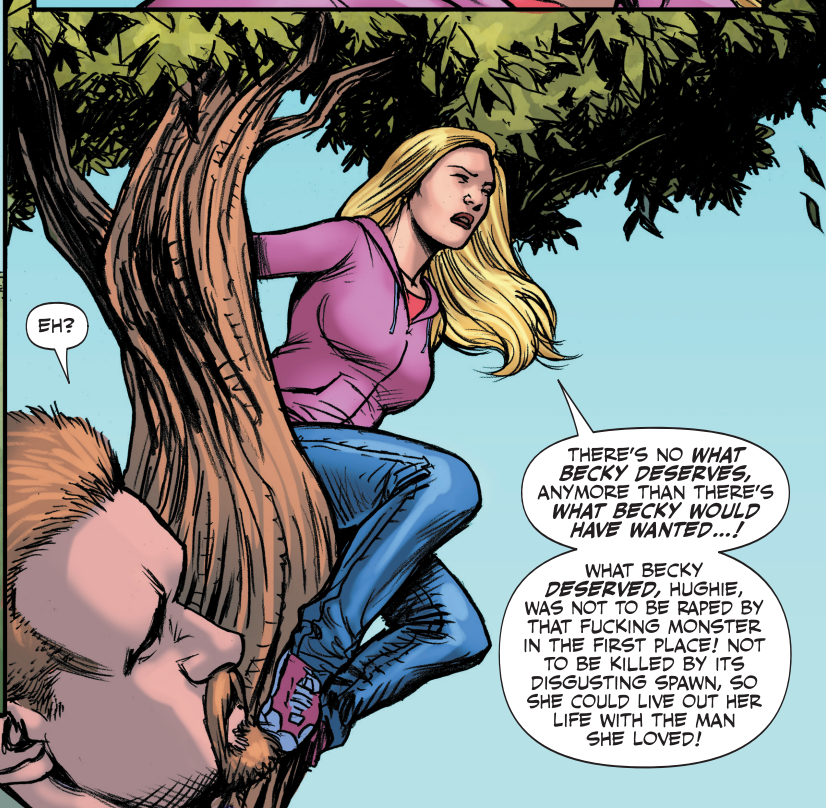

I KEN THAT.
THERE'S JUST WHAT THERE IS AND WHAT WE'VE GOT.
AYE.
BUT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT DOIN' THIS AWFUL THING TO GET RID OF HER, SO HE CAN...BUT...
I KNEW HIM, ANNIE. I REMEMBER HOW HE TALKED ABOUT HER.
GOD, IT'S LIKE I CAN HEAR HIM NOW...
HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED, BUT--BUT HE COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF. JUST FOR A SECOND.
"HE SAID--I LOVED MY WIFE, HUGHIE. BECKY, HER NAME WAS.
"AN' THEN-- IT WAS LIKE HE WAS GROPIN' FOR THE WORDS--
"SHE MADE YOU BELIEVE IN THINGS."

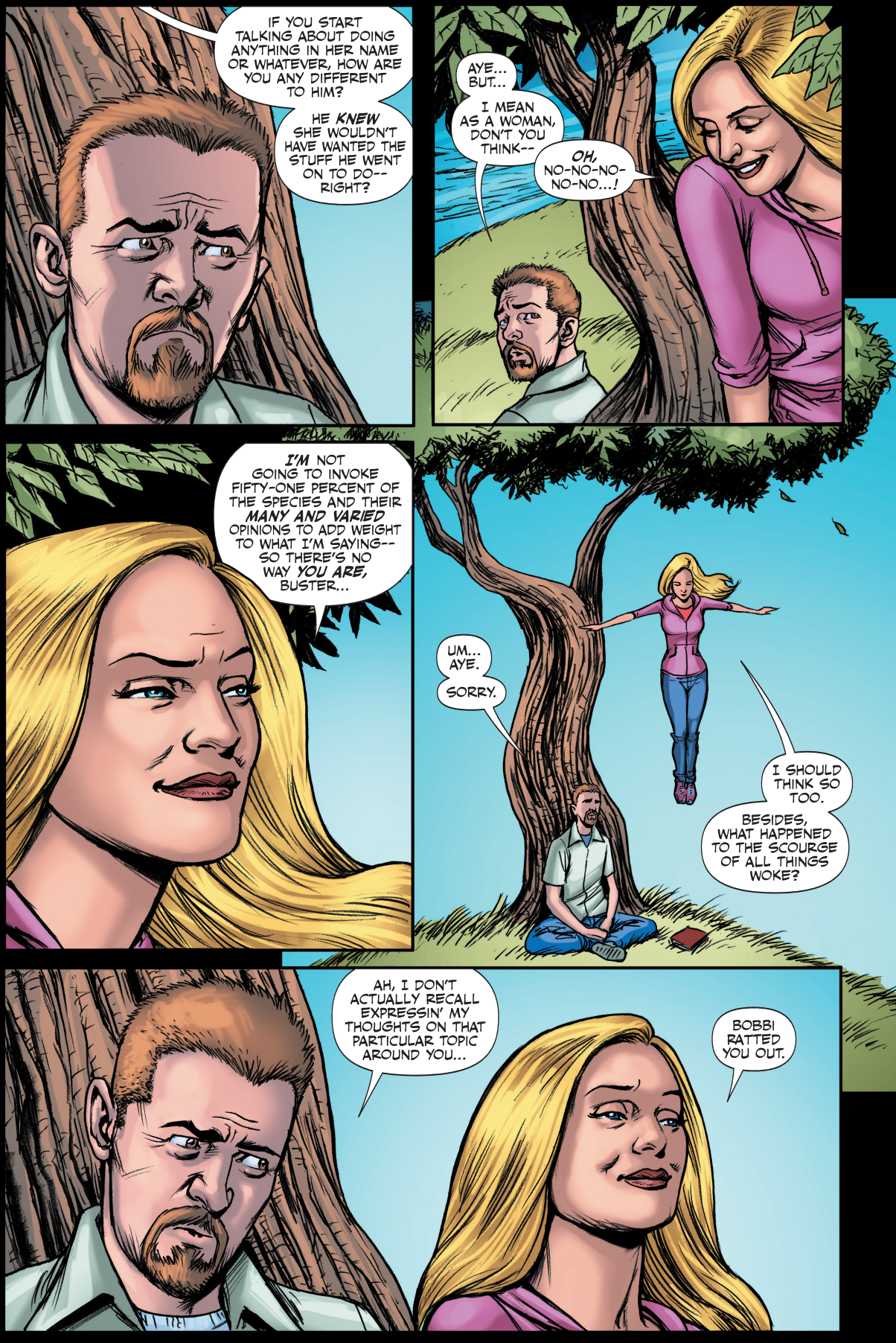
AN' THE NEXT SECOND HE WAS BACK TO NORMAL.
AN' THEN ON TOWARDS THE END-- IT WAS WHEN WE WERE OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AN' AW' THE BASTARDS WERE DEAD, AN' I SAW HIM ACTUALLY START TO--
OKAY, HANG ON.

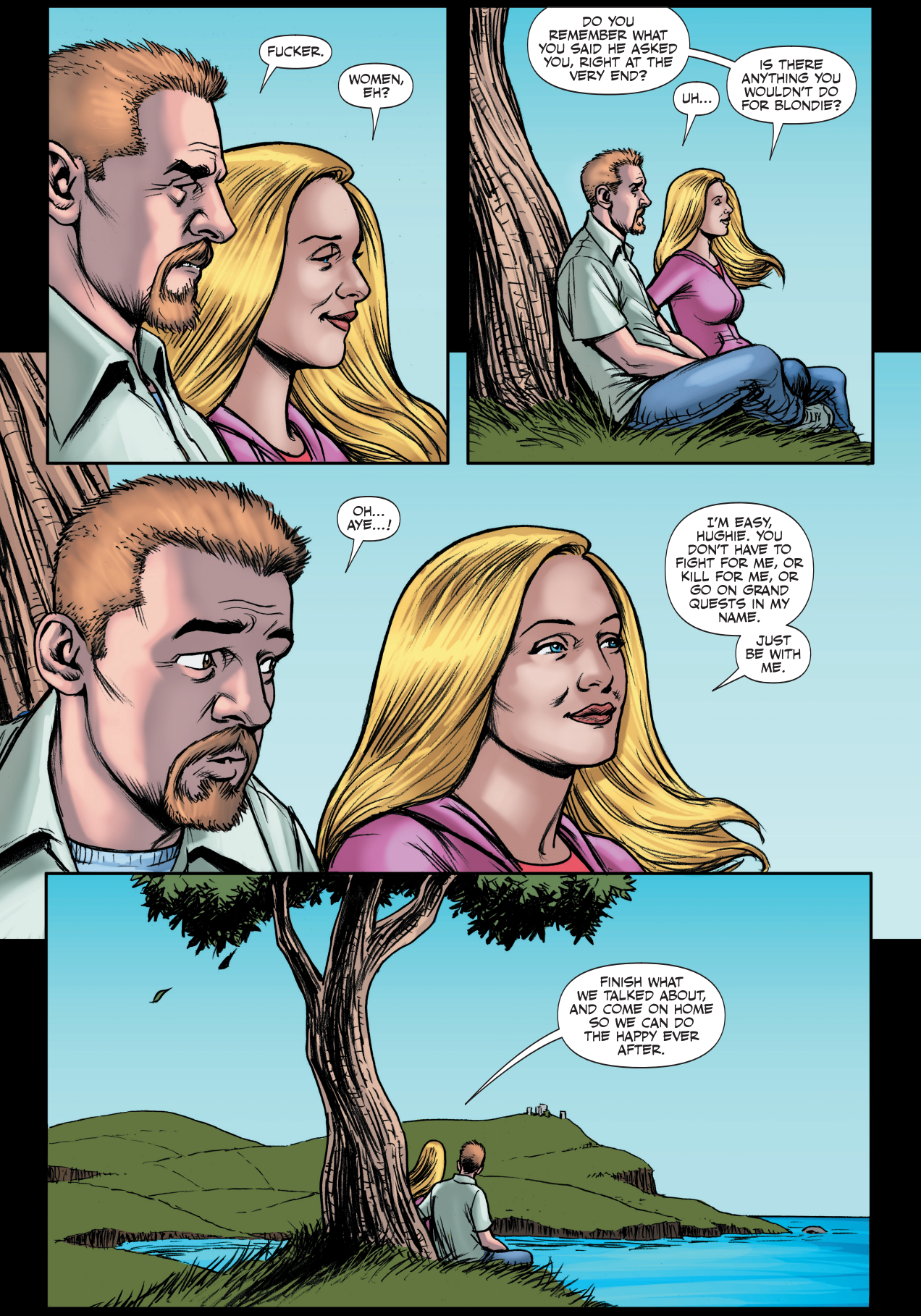

BEFORE WE GO TOO FAR DOWN MEMORY LANE: WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
WELL-- *SOMETHIN'* MADE HIM DO IT, YOU KEN? HE HAD HIS BIG BLOODY GENOCIDAL MASTER PLAN, BUT SOMETHIN' MADE HIM BUILD IN A SORT O' FAILSAFE TO STOP IT.

THE FAILSAFE BEING YOU.
HE TALKED ABOUT HAVIN' A WEE BROTHER, 'CAUSE IT WAS HIS OWN BROTHER STOPPED HIM WRECKIN' THINGS WHEN THEY WERE KIDS. BUT WHY WOULD HE EVEN *WANT* TO STOP HIMSELF?

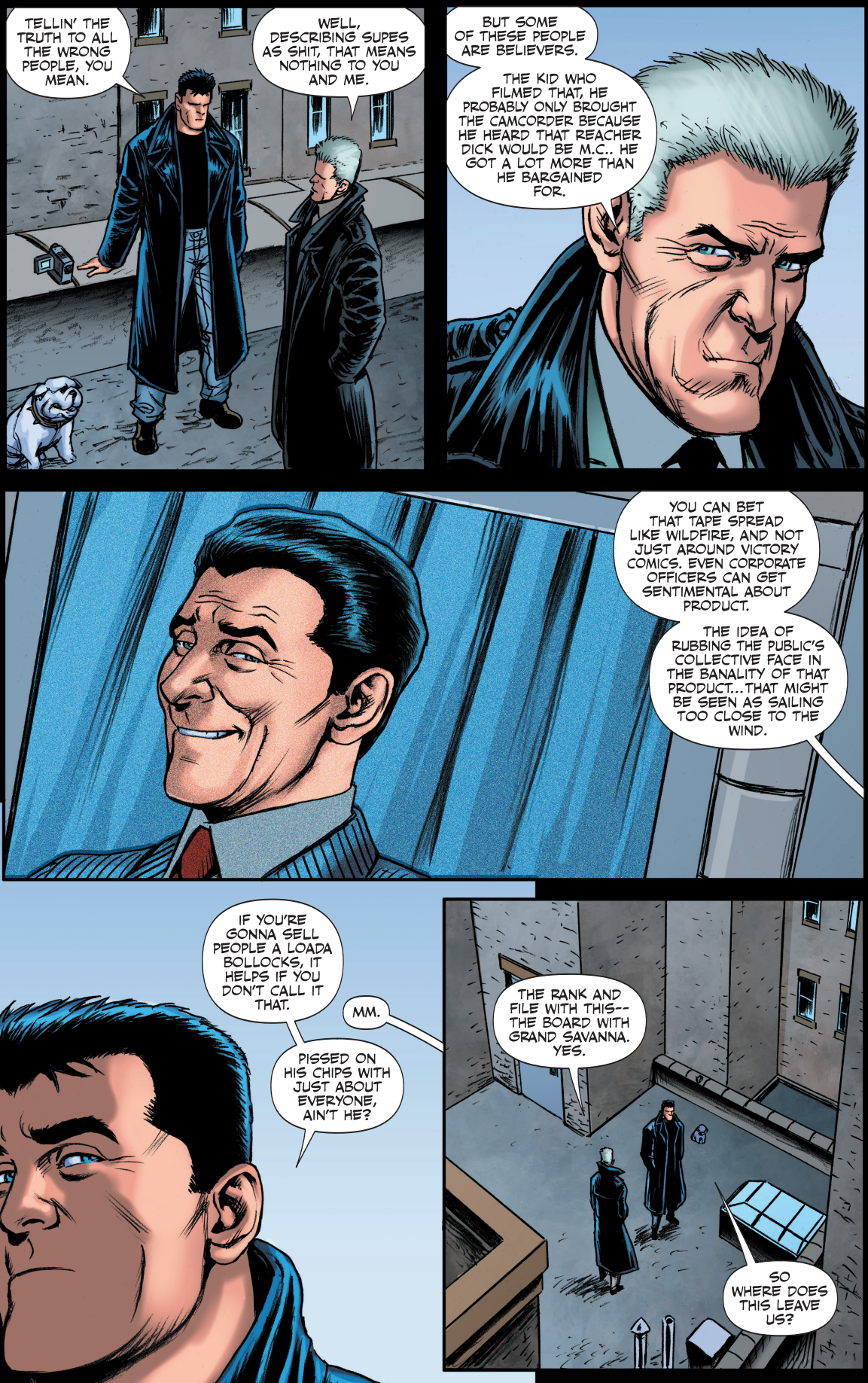

I FEEL LIKE FOLK SHOULD BE SHOUTIN' HER NAME FROM THE ROOFTOPS, I MEAN SHE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE LOST TO HISTORY! THINK ABOUT IT!
REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, SHE DESERVES *SO MUCH BETTER--*
OH, JESUS CHRIST--!


EH?
THERE'S NO *WHAT BECKY DESERVES,* ANYMORE THAN THERE'S *WHAT BECKY WOULD HAVE WANTED...!*
WHAT BECKY *DESERVED,* HUGHIE, WAS NOT TO BE RAPED BY THAT FUCKING MONSTER IN THE FIRST PLACE! NOT TO BE KILLED BY ITS DISGUSTING SPAWN, SO SHE COULD LIVE OUT HER LIFE WITH THE MAN SHE LOVED!


IF YOU START TALKING ABOUT DOING ANYTHING IN HER NAME OR WHATEVER, HOW ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT TO HIM?
HE KNEW SHE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED THE STUFF HE WENT ON TO DO-- RIGHT?
AYE... BUT...
I MEAN AS A WOMAN, DON'T YOU THINK--
OH, NO-NO-NO-NO-NO...!
I'M NOT GOING TO INVOKE FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE SPECIES AND THEIR MANY AND VARIED OPINIONS TO ADD WEIGHT TO WHAT I'M SAYING-- SO THERE'S NO WAY YOU ARE, BUSTER...
UM... AYE.
SORRY.
I SHOULD THINK SO TOO.
BESIDES, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SCOURGE OF ALL THINGS WOKE?
AH, I DON'T ACTUALLY RECALL EXPRESSIN' MY THOUGHTS ON THAT PARTICULAR TOPIC AROUND YOU...
BOBBI RATTED YOU OUT.


FUCKER.
WOMEN, EH?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID HE ASKED YOU, RIGHT AT THE VERY END?
UH...
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULDN'T DO FOR BLONDIE?
OH... AYE...!
I'M EASY, HUGHIE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR ME, OR KILL FOR ME, OR GO ON GRAND QUESTS IN MY NAME.
JUST BE WITH ME.
FINISH WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, AND COME ON HOME SO WE CAN DO THE HAPPY EVER AFTER.

...POINT IS THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THE NORMAL SUPERHUMAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL, WHICH IS REALLY JUST THE SAME SIX OR SEVEN INDIVIDUALS WITH THEIR COSTUMES COLORED IN DIFFERENTLY EACH TIME-- AD INFINITUM...
WE CAN TAKE IDEAS FROM WHEREVER WE LIKE.
WE CAN GET CREATIVE, WE CAN HAVE FUN...
WHO SHOT THIS?
ONE OF THE LEGEND'S CONTACTS OVER AT VICTORY.
SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BEEN AT THE PRESENTATION, BUT APPARENTLY HE JUST WANDERED IN.
IF WE WANT TO USE IDEAS FROM POPULAR CULTURE, IF WE FEEL LIKE EXPLOITING SOME OF THE NOTIONS WE'VE POPULARIZED AT MEDIACORP, WE CAN: THE SKY IS QUITE LITERALLY THE LIMIT HERE...
LET'S BE HONEST, SHALL WE? WHEN IT COMES TO SUPERHEROES, PEOPLE LAP THIS SHIT UP. I KNOW IT, YOU KNOW IT, WE ALL DO.
THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE ANYTHING WE PUT IN FRONT OF THEM...
HE'S SPEAKING AT AN OFFICIAL VOUGHT-AMERICAN FUNCTION.
THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.
HE SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAD A COUPLE O' DRINKS.


TELLIN' THE TRUTH TO ALL THE WRONG PEOPLE, YOU MEAN.
WELL, DESCRIBING SUPES AS SHIT, THAT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU AND ME.
BUT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE BELIEVERS.
THE KID WHO FILMED THAT, HE PROBABLY ONLY BROUGHT THE CAMCORDER BECAUSE HE HEARD THAT REACHER DICK WOULD BE M.C.. HE GOT A LOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR.
YOU CAN BET THAT TAPE SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE, AND NOT JUST AROUND VICTORY COMICS. EVEN CORPORATE OFFICERS CAN GET SENTIMENTAL ABOUT PRODUCT.
THE IDEA OF RUBBING THE PUBLIC'S COLLECTIVE FACE IN THE BANALITY OF THAT PRODUCT...THAT MIGHT BE SEEN AS SAILING TOO CLOSE TO THE WIND.
IF YOU'RE GONNA SELL PEOPLE A LOADA BOLLOCKS, IT HELPS IF YOU DON'T CALL IT THAT.
MM.
PISSED ON HIS CHIPS WITH JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, AIN'T HE?
THE RANK AND FILE WITH THIS-- THE BOARD WITH GRAND SAVANNA. YES.
SO WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?

BAXTER-PUGH STARTED OUT IN MEDIA, WHICH AT THE LEVEL HE REACHED REQUIRES OVERWHELMING CONFIDENCE.
IF HE'S RASH ENOUGH TO MAKE A SPEECH LIKE THAT ONE, WELL, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE HE WON'T BE EXPECTING THE CONSEQUENCES.
THAT WHAT LANGLEY THINK, IS IT?
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO TALK TO THEM...
THEY USUALLY LEAVE US TO GET ON WITH IT.
WHICH THEY WILL HERE.
THIS IS SORTA LIKE THE ARABS AN' THE ISRAELIS TO THEM, INNIT? SO LONG AS IT JUST PLODS ALONG AN' NO ONE EVER WINS.
YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS.
THE PHRASE I'VE HEARD USED IS, AH...*A LOW INTENSITY ENGAGEMENT WITH ONGOING BUT MINIMAL LIKELIHOOD OF BLOWBACK...*
OH, WELL AS LONG AS YOU'VE GOT A *NAME* FOR IT, EH?
'COS THEN YOU CAN PRETEND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT. AN' THEN YOU CAN DO SOMETHIN'.
EVEN IF IT'S THE WRONG THING, 'COS REALLY YOU KNOW FUCK ALL.

WELL, YOU AND I ARE PLAYING A LONGER GAME THAN THAT, AREN'T WE?
IF YOU WANT FRENCHIE TO HANDLE THIS ONE...
YEAH.
NAH, I'LL DO IT.
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION GOING ON. I DOUBT YOU'LL HAVE MUCH TROUBLE GETTING TO THEM.
I DOUBT I WILL.
YOU MENTION TO THEM OLD MATES O' YOURS WE AIN'T HERE TO CLEAN UP VOUGHT'S SHIT?
I DID.
AND?
THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT.
YOU DO KNOW OUR SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE FOR A REASON, DON'T YOU?
REGARDING THE USE OF EQUIPMENT. MAINTAINING THE LOGS ON SAME.
WHAT HAVE YOU.
WE'LL DROP YOU OFF AT HOME, MATE.
LET ME KNOW HOW YOU GET ON.

452
HOTEL
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE WORDS.

NO BIG SURPRISE THERE, I KNOW. WRITING'S BEYOND A BERK LIKE ME, THERE'S ALL SORTS OF TRICKS TO IT I JUST CAN'T GET MY HEAD ROUND.

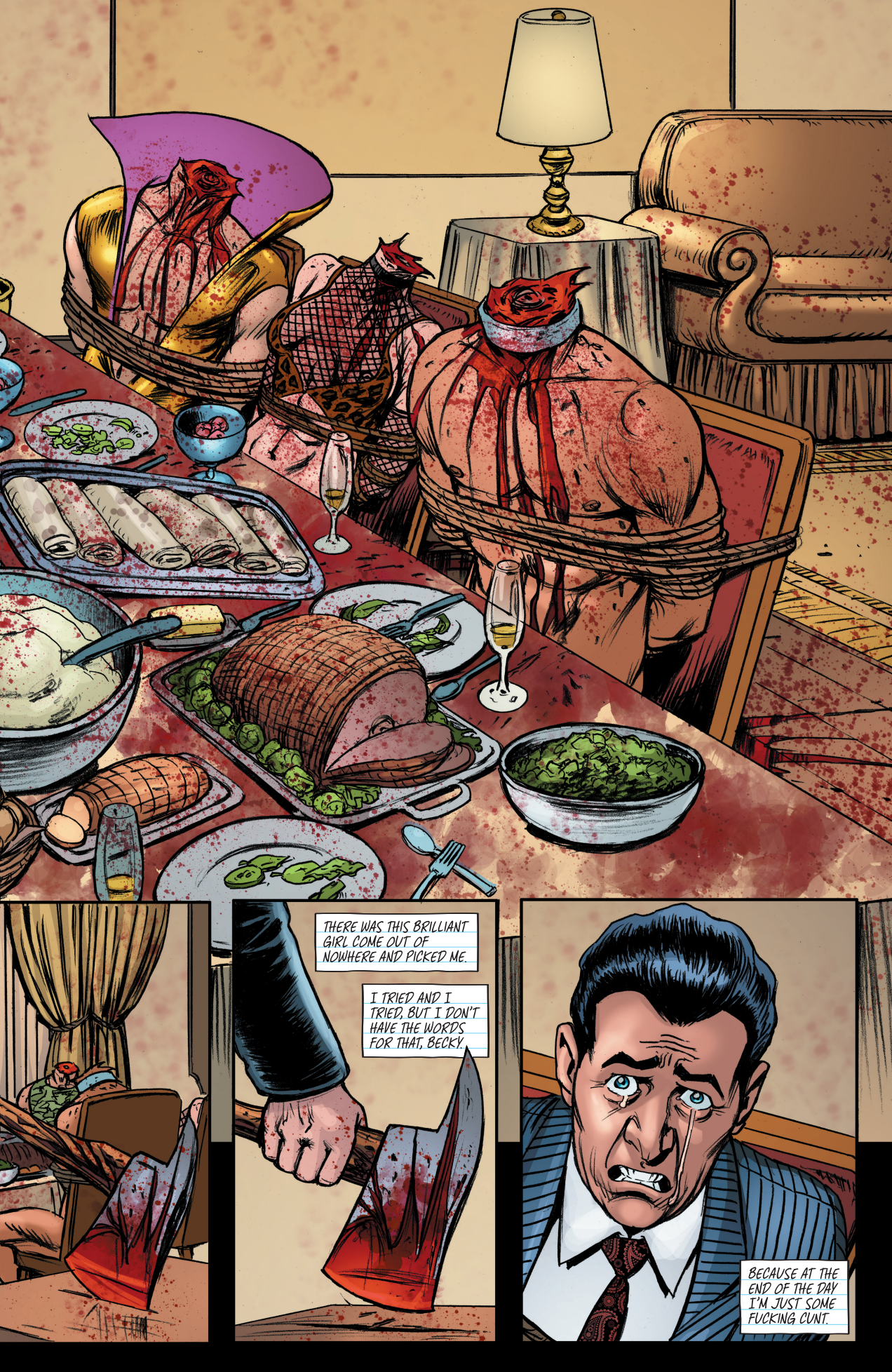
BUT EVEN IF I WAS GOOD AT IT, I DON'T THINK THE WORDS FOR YOU EXIST.

I STOOD THERE AFTER I DONE WHAT I DONE AND THOUGHT--TOO LATE NOW, ANYWAY.
1413
IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH.

SHE'S GONE.

WHAT? WHAT'S--
THE FOOD.
IT'S IN THE FOOD, DON'T ANYONE TOUCH--

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME DID YOU DO...?
WE HAD A GREAT CONVERSATION ABOUT BOUNDARIES.
WHY, WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?


THERE WAS THIS BRILLIANT GIRL COME OUT OF NOWHERE AND PICKED ME.
I TRIED AND I TRIED, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS FOR THAT, BECKY.
BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY I'M JUST SOME FUCKING CUNT.

ALL I CAN SAY IS GOODBYE, LOVE.
BILLY
THE END

DAN ABNETT AND JONATHAN LAU ON SONJA'S SUPERHERO TURN

Dan, last month we unveiled VAMPIRELLA: THE DARK POWERS, and now here we have the companion title starring RED SONJA. How are you crafting these two titles to play off of each other as readers follow both?

Abnett: Each is its own story. Sonja's series shows her, like Vampirella, recruited by the Project and learning to work with the organization. They both hit bumps along the way because neither one of them is a good fit for traditional superheroics. So the stories are running in parallel. However, as they play out, we will see how they meet and interconnect in interesting and explosive ways.

With both characters trying out for The Project in a classic capes and tights superheroic role, how do you see them differing in fulfilling that? How does Red Sonja fit the bill?

Abnett: It doesn't really suit either of them, but the stories explain why it's happening. It's a deliberate genre clash, played out logically and realistically (and for maximum fun). With Vampirella, we joined her when she was already on board as a member. Sonja's tale is rather different.

This series opens not too dissimilar from a traditional Red Sonja sword and sandals story. What can longtime fans of the She-Devil With a Sword expect from their favorite Hyborian heroine in this series?

Abnett: It starts very much like a classic Hyborian adventure and then shows the clash between genres as it happens. It's everything you'd want and expect from a Red Sonja tale, and then it takes a violent twist. It's immense fun, and I think fans of both sword and sorcery, and superheroes, will get a big kick out of it.

Lau: I'm very much in the same boat with the readers with regards to the story. I just want to ramp up the action in every issue I get and that's what will be different - Hyborian action from yours truly. Although this time around, I'm challenged to maintain the strict rule of going old school comics paneling and design. Notice there is no floating or overlapping images, no open or fancy panels, even Sonja's hair is back instead of my usual lion's mane look.

You're working with artist Jonathan Lau on this series, who Dynamite fans know and love. What does he bring to the table with you as a collaborator and how's it been seeing his pages roll in?

Abnett: His art's incredible - so vivid and detailed, and so dynamic. He's a great artist for this - he captures Sonja's world, and the feel of her adventures, perfectly, but he's also got plenty more in the tank to blow it open with everything else. The superhero stuff is awesome too. Ever wanted to see what a sword would do to an over-confident superhero..?

Jonathan, you've drawn nearly every major Dynamite character. You're just coming off of Red Sonja: Age of Chaos, which also dealt with a large cast and lots of action. Now you're drawing ALL the characters. Which ones are you most excited to portray in this series? And are you calling back to any of your previous work here?

Lau: I've dipped my hands into the Project Superpowers characters way back. I'm simply excited to do some capes and spandex stuff here again because it's as close as I could get to draw Supes or Bats. Personally, Black Terror would be nostalgic to draw or anyone else with a cape at the least!

I hear whispers that these two series are leading to something even bigger… Without getting too spoilery, what can Dynamite readers look forward to?

Abnett: Something big indeed. When we first discussed this idea, it seemed like it wouldn't work. Take two iconic characters, each with their own very particular style and genre, and mix them up… and then pour in a huge measure of another genre, the superhero team, the costumed hero. The fun was making it work, and I think it really does. These three ingredients, which shouldn't fit together on the same page, fit together perfectly when you set up the right context. Sonja and Vampi are both, reluctantly, joining a pan-galactic, hyper-advanced superhero organization that protects entire worlds… you KNOW that's not going to go smoothly. To me the trick was not to make anybody look stupid: not Vampirella, not Red Sonja, but not the Project superheroes either. They're not the patsies here, they're not the idiots caught in the crossfire. You know, now that these projects are both announced, that Sonja and Vampi are going to meet. That's going to be big. But without getting spoilery, that's just the start. Stay tuned… there's something epic coming that you will NOT want to miss!

NEXT ISSUE

With the aid of some old familiar faces, Hughie's globetrotting efforts to discover the origin of Becky's diary finally bear fruit- but is he ready to face the shadowy figure behind the conspiracy that almost destroyed him? Old debts are paid and old scores settled, as the last story of The Boys comes to its conclusion.

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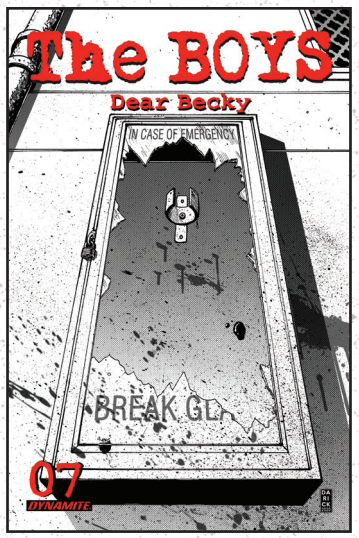

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